

The Fundamental Law of Sociology

There are some loons on the Internet trying to spread the idea that the fundamental law of sociology is the black-white test score gap. Put aside the fact that anyone who would even think of proposing such an absurd thing must be a raving scientific racist.

And put aside the fact that they must also be fairly stupid, because such a claim is, at best, a discovery about a particular society, and not a law. (Can you imagine someone claiming that “falling objects accelerate at 32 feet per second per second” is a fundamental law of physics?)

Even put aside the fact that no actual sociologist would even go near such a claim, as the field's entire purpose is to investigate *social* causes of such phenomena.

No, let us look at an actual fundamental law of sociology, the Thomas theorem. The Thomas theorem says “If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences.”

Now think about what that means about claiming the black-white test score gap is an immutable law.

Extra credit: Research “stereotype threat”.

You should follow me on twitter [here](#).

January 23, 2007